



AGRICULTURE IN IDAHO
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
 United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC
 Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701
 1-800-691-9987 • www.nass.usda.gov



ISSUE: 7-06

April 5, 2006

IN THIS ISSUE:

Prices Received
Planting Intentions
Grain Stocks
Honey Production
Farm Numbers
Dairy Products

Mid-March Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of March showed increases for all barley, potatoes, all wheat, and cows. The price decreased for alfalfa hay, feed barley, beef cattle, steers & heifers, calves, and all milk. Prices remained unchanged for dry beans.

For the U.S., the Preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in March, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (0.9 percent) from February. Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, lettuce, potatoes, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for cattle, milk, tomatoes, and strawberries.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Mar. 2005-Mar. 2006

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		March 2005	February 2006	March 2006 ^{1/}	March 2005	February 2006	March 2006	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	101.00	116.00	112.00	98.60	99.20	100.00	--
Barley, All	Bu.	3.11	2.92	3.05	2.49	2.57	2.55	36
Feed	Bu.	2.14	2.08	2.05	1.67	1.83	1.85	--
Malting	Bu.	3.42	3.17	^{2/}	2.74	2.77	2.79	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	27.40	19.30	19.30	26.60	17.40	19.50	36
Potatoes ^{3/}	Cwt.	4.25	5.35	6.10	6.44	7.44	8.31	53
Fresh ^{4/}	Cwt.	2.70	6.10	--	8.04	10.91	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.40	4.90	--	5.38	5.57	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.70	3.41	3.47	3.42	3.66	3.71	36
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{5/}	Cwt.	84.50	84.70	82.30	91.00	92.40	89.20	47
Cows ^{6/}	Cwt.	53.30	47.60	48.30	55.00	49.70	49.90	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	94.40	95.20	93.10	95.20	97.80	94.10	--
Calves	Cwt.	128.00	133.00	132.00	136.00	142.00	138.00	52
Lambs	Cwt.	109.00	83.00	--	114.00	96.80	--	--
Milk, All ^{7/}	Cwt.	14.60	12.10	11.50	15.60	13.50	^{8/} 12.80	^{9/} 35
Fluid Grade ^{10/}	Cwt.	14.60	12.10	--	15.60	13.50	^{8/} 12.80	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	14.70	11.70	--	14.80	12.60	^{8/} 11.80	--

1/ Mid-Month. 2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms 3/ Average monthly price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed. 4/ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock prices. 5/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined. 6/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. 7/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. 8/ Fat test percent: all milk 3.72, fluid milk 3.72, mfg. grade 4.06 9/ Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. 10/ Includes milk diverted to manufacturing.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	February 2005	March 2005	February 2006		March 2006 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	114	119	113	114	113
Prices Paid	137	139	146	145	144
Ratio ^{1/}	83	86	77	79	78

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

2006 Idaho Planting Intentions

Idaho farmers intend to seed 470,000 acres of spring wheat, unchanged from last year. Winter wheat seedings, at 750,000 acres, decreased 3 percent from the 2005 crop. Idaho farmers intend to seed 20,000 acres of durum wheat this year, unchanged from 2005. All wheat planted in Idaho is expected to total 1.24 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. Barley seedings are expected to total 600,000 acres, down 5 percent from last season's 630,000 acres. If realized, this will be the lowest recorded acreage for Idaho since 1968. Oat seedings are expected to be 80,000 acres, down 11 percent from last year. Corn plantings are expected to be 230,000 acres, down 2 percent from last year. Dry bean planting intentions remain unchanged from last year at 100,000 acres. Dry bean estimates include garbanzo beans, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. All hay harvested, at 1.41 million acres, is expected to remain unchanged from 2005. Sugarbeet plantings are expected to total 188,000 acres, up 11 percent from last year's 169,000 acres planted.

Nationally, producers intend to plant 13.9 million acres of spring wheat this year, down 1 percent from 2005. Winter wheat seedings totaled 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from the 2005 crop. Area seeded to durum wheat is expected to total 1.83 million acres, a decrease of 34 percent from 2005. All wheat planted area is expected to total 57.1 million acres for the 2006 crop, down slightly from 2005. If realized, this will be the lowest all wheat acreage since 1972. Barley growers intend to seed 3.67 million acres for 2006, down 5 percent from last year and, if realized, this will be the lowest barley planted acreage on record. Area planted to dry beans is expected to total 1.71 million acres, up 3 percent from last year and 26 percent above two years ago. Growers intend to plant 78.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, down 5 percent from 2005 and 4 percent below 2004. If realized, this will be the lowest corn acreage since 2001. Acreage actually planted may vary from those indicated as a result of weather, economic conditions, availability of production inputs and the effect of this report itself.

Planted Acreage 2004-2005 & Planting Intentions March 1, 2006 – Idaho & U.S.

CROP	PLANTED		PLANTING INTENTIONS	2006/2005
	2004	2005	2006 ^{1/}	
	<i>Thousand Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
IDAHO				
Winter Wheat	750	770	750	97
Spring Wheat	500	470	470	100
Durum Wheat ^{2/}		20	20	100
Corn ^{3/}	230	235	230	98
Oats	90	90	80	89
Barley	680	630	600	95
All Hay ^{4/}	1,480	1,410	1,410	100
Sugarbeets	195	169	188	111
Dry Beans ^{5/}	80	100	100	100
UNITED STATES				
Winter Wheat	43,350	40,433	41,404	102
Spring Wheat	13,763	14,036	13,899	99
Durum Wheat	2,561	2,760	1,825	66
Corn ^{3/}	80,929	81,759	78,019	95
Oats	4,085	4,246	4,324	102
Barley	4,527	3,875	3,667	95
All Hay ^{4/}	61,966	61,649	61,478	100
Sugarbeets	1,345.6	1,294.8	1,371.8	106
Dry Beans ^{5/}	1,354.3	1,665.0	1,710.3	103

1/ Intended plantings in 2006 as indicated by reports from farmers. 2/ Estimates began in 2005. 3/ Excludes sweet corn. 4/ Area harvested 2004-5, intended for harvest 2006. 5/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

March 1 Grain Stocks

Idaho's March 1, 2006 stocks of all wheat stored in all positions totaled 31.5 million bushels, up 12 percent from last year's 28.2 million bushels. On-farm storage was estimated at 13.0 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year's 11.0 million bushels. Off-farm stocks, including stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors was estimated at 18.5 million bushels, up 8 percent from March 1, 2005. Barley stocks in all positions totaled 43.8 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. On-farm storage was estimated at 18.5 million bushels, up 6 percent from a year ago. Off-farm storage was estimated at 25.3 million bushels, up 32 percent from last year's 19.2 million bushels.

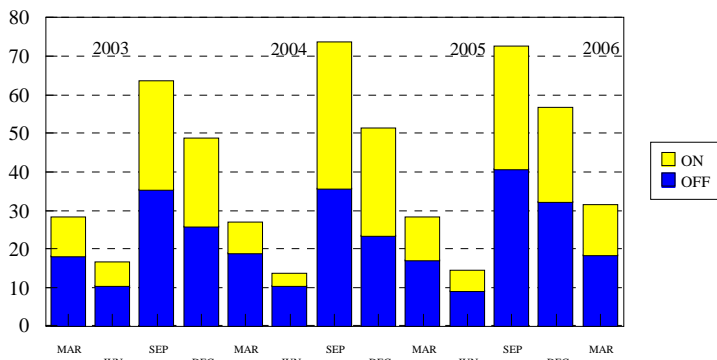
Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions March 1, 2006, was estimated at 972 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 256 million bushels, down 16 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 716 million bushels, are up 5 percent from a year ago. Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 167 million bushels, down 13 percent from March 1, 2005. On-farm stocks are estimated at 68.4 million bushels, 14 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 98.2 million bushels, are 12 percent below March 2005. Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2006, totaled 74.7 million bushels, 9 percent below the stocks on hand March 1, 2005. Of the total stocks on hand, 41.9 million bushels are stored on farms, down 4 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 32.8 million bushels, down 16 percent from the previous year. Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006, totaled 6.99 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2005. Of the total stocks, 4.06 billion bushels were stored on farms, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.93 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago.

March 1 Grain Stocks

IDAHO WHEAT STOCKS

QUARTERLY, MARCH 2003 - MARCH 2006 1/

Million Bushels

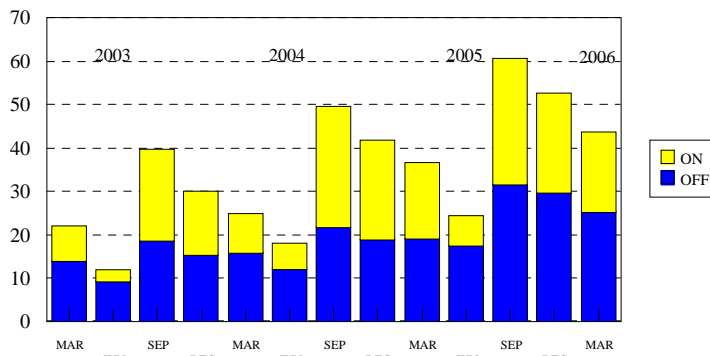


1/ First Day of Each Quarter
USDA NASS

IDAHO BARLEY STOCKS

QUARTERLY, MARCH 2003 - MARCH 2006 1/

Million Bushels



1/ First Day of Each Quarter
USDA NASS

Idaho Honey Production Decreased 44 Percent

Idaho honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 3.52 million pounds, a 44 percent decrease from 2004. Honey producing colonies are estimated at 95,000 colonies, down 5,000 from last year's estimate. Yield per colony averaged 37.0 pounds, down 26 pounds from the 63.0 pounds in 2004. Producer honey stocks were 1.79 million pounds on December 15, 2005, a decrease of 29 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is 80.0 cents, down 19 cents from a year ago.

United States honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. There were 2.41 million colonies producing honey in 2005, down 6 percent from 2004. Yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from the 71.8 pounds in 2004. Colonies which

produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 62.4 million pounds on December 15, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Honey prices decreased during 2005 to 90.4 cents, down 15 percent from 106.9 cents in 2004. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. Honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel. Honey prices for 2005 were lower than the previous year for all color class totals.

Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2004-2005

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>					
Water White, Extra White, White	104.4	82.4	177.0	186.7	107.5	86.2
Extra Light Amber	95.9	79.4	150.6	178.0	102.0	88.3
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	85.9	80.1	196.0	178.9	105.1	99.1
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	113.9	91.6	231.5	279.2	161.5	108.4
All Honey	99.2	81.6	182.6	183.3	106.9	90.4

Idaho Farm Numbers Unchanged

The number of farms and ranches in Idaho in 2005 totaled 25,000 and is unchanged from 2004. Total land in farms in Idaho, at 11.8 million acres, also remains unchanged from 2004. The average size of farm was 472 acres in 2005.

The number of farms in the United States in 2005 is estimated at 2.1 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2004. Total land in farms, at 933.4 million acres, decreased 2.9 million acres, or 0.3 percent, from 2004. The average farm size was 444 acres during 2005, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

USDA'S definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 census. Since 1974, minor modifications to the farm definition have been made.

U.S. Dairy Products February 2006 Highlights

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 719 million pounds, 1.6 percent above February 2005 but 7.0 percent below January 2006.

Italian type cheese production totaled 307 million pounds, up 1.9 percent February 2005 but 6.4 percent below January 2006.

American type cheese production totaled 303 million pounds, 3.3 percent above February 2005 but 6.7 percent below January 2006.

Butter production was 134 million pounds, 18.1 percent above February 2005 but 9.0 percent below January 2006.

Frozen dessert: (comparisons with February 2005)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) – 62.9 million gallons, down 2.0 percent.

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) – 25.1 million gallons, down 10.6 percent.

Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) – 1.28 million gallons, down 20.8 percent.

Sherbet (hard) – 4.24 million gallons, up 3.0 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) – 4.62 million gallons, up 3.7 percent.

Nonfat dry milk for human food: (compared with February 2005)— 117 million pounds, up 24.1 percent.

Dry whey products: (comparisons with February 2005)

Dry Whey, human --- 80.8 million pounds, up 9.1 percent.

Dry whey, animal --- 5.30 million pounds, down 8.5 percent.

Dry whey, total --- 86.1 million pounds, up 7.8 percent.